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Air Resources Board

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

December 17, 2007

Mr. Wayne Nasti
Regional Administrator
Region 9
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, California 94105-3901

Dear Mr. Nasti:

We are transmitting our recommendations for area designations and boundaries under the federal air quality standards for particulate matter 2.5 microns or less in diameter (PM_{2.5}) as requested in your July 10, 2007 letter to Governor Schwarzenegger.

PM_{2.5} Nonattainment Areas

We base our recommendations on ambient PM_{2.5} concentrations measured from 2004 through 2006 by 81 Federal Reference Method (FRM) monitors located throughout California. The Air Resources Board's (ARB) recommendation is that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) designate seven areas as nonattainment for the revised PM_{2.5} 24-hour standard:

- South Coast Air Basin.
- San Joaquin Valley Air Basin.
- Bay Area Air Quality Management District.
- Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District.
- The combined cities of Yuba City/Marysville within the Feather River Air Quality Management District.
- The City of Chico within the Butte County Air Quality Management District.
- The City of Calexico within the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District.

We also recommend that U.S. EPA designate twelve areas as attainment, where air quality data are sufficient to determine that they meet the federal standard. Finally, 28 areas should be deemed unclassifiable, where air quality data are insufficient to make a determination.

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our website: <http://www.arb.ca.gov>.

California Environmental Protection Agency

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Nonattainment Area Boundaries

Regarding nonattainment area boundaries, ARB staff has the following recommendations:

- Retaining the existing nonattainment area boundaries for South Coast and San Joaquin Valley.
- Establishing nonattainment area boundaries for the Bay Area and Sacramento consistent with the air district boundary for each region.
- Establishing focused nonattainment areas for the cities of Chico, and the combined cities of Marysville and Yuba City to reflect the localized nature of the PM2.5 problem in these regions.

We also recommend a focused nonattainment area for the city of Calexico. ARB staff believes that violations of the daily PM2.5 standard in Calexico during the 2004 – 2006 period result from emissions in the densely populated city of Mexicali across the border. We believe that the City of Calexico would attain the PM2.5 air quality standard but for emissions emanating from outside of the United States. ARB plans to use the provisions in the Clean Air Act for dealing with air quality problems along international border areas.

Enclosures

We include the following materials in this package:

- Recommended nonattainment/attainment/unclassifiable areas (Enclosure 1).
- Staff Report (Enclosure 2).
- Information supporting recommendations for nonattainment areas (Enclosure 3).
- Boundary descriptions (Enclosure 4).
- 2004 – 2006 data for all of California's PM2.5 monitoring sites (Enclosure 5).

If you have any questions, please call Lynn Terry, Deputy Executive Officer, at (916) 322-2739, or have your staff contact Karen Magliano, Chief, Air Quality Data Branch, at (916) 322-7137.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

James N. Goldstene
Executive Officer

Enclosures

cc: See next page.

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